

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4952

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR, PINS, PDIP, PFOR, UR, BE

SUBJECT: VISA RENEWALS IN DOUBT FOR TWO SOVIET TRADE OFFICIALS
IN BELGIUM

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN SAID TODAY RENEWAL OF VISAS FOR TWO SOVIET OFFICIALS ASSIGNED TO "TRANSWORLD MARINE AGENCY" OFFICE IN ANTWERP IS PRESENTLY "UNDER DISCUSSION". RESIDENCE VISAS AND WORK PERMITS FOR TWO SOVIET OFFICIALS, VYACHESLAV MAKEJEV AND FNU MEDVETCHENKO, EXPIRE END OF OCTOBER.

2. TRANSWORLD MARINE AGENCY IS AN ENTERPRISE INCORPORATED IN ANTWERP WITH SOVIET GOVERNMENT HOLDING MOST OF STOCK. TMA SPOKESMAN ASSERT THAT ITS BUSINESS IS MAINTAINING LIAISON ON MARITIME QUESTIONS BETWEEN SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND VARIOUS PORTS OF IMPORTANCE IN WORLD SHIPPING TRADE.

3. WEST GERMAN AND BELGIAN PRESS HAVE CARRIED REPORTS THAT TMA WAS USED LAST SPRING AS CONDUIT TO TRANSFER BF 20 MILLION FROM SOVIETS TO PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY. TMA SPOKESMAN CONCEDED
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SUCH SUM WAS TRANSFERRED TO ACCOUNT OF VITAL LIUTY, SOVIET

CITIZEN, AT "BANQUE POUR L'ATLANTIQUE" IN LISBON. SPOKESMAN DENIED IT WAS DESTINED TO PCP, ASSERTING FUNDS WERE FOR PURPOSE OF ORGANIZING A TMA SUBSIDIARY IN LISBON. BRUSSELS PRESS TODAY CARRIED REPORT ATTRIBUTED TO FOREIGN MINISTRY SOURCES TO EFFECT THAT GOB HAD NO EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT ASSERTION THAT THE TRANSFERRED MONEY WAS FOR PCP. JUSTICE MINISTRY DENIED A PRESS REPORT THAT MAKEJEV WAS BEING EXPELLED BECAUSE OF LISBON FUND CAPER. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. FOREIGN MINISTRY TELLS US THAT GOB IS GENERALLY UNHAPPY ABOUT TMA ACTIVITIES WITH SPECIFIC CONCERN AT MOMENT BEING FACT THAT MAKEJEV AND MEDVETCHENKO SPEND ALL THEIR TIME IN NETHERLANDS AND DO NO WORK IN BELGIUM. HE SAID SOVIETS ARE BEING TOLD (WITH DUTCH CONCURRENCE) THAT, IF THEY WANT MARITIME AGENTS TO WORK IN NETHERLANDS, THEY SHOULD REQUEST VISAS AND WORK PERMITS FROM THE DUTCH. HE SAID THAT, WHEN AND IF A SOVIET CONSULATE IS ESTABLISHED IN ANTWERP, TMA ACTIVITIES SHOULD BE FOLDED INTO CONSULATE OPERATIONS. AS TO WHEN SOVIET CONSULATE MIGHT BE AUTHORIZED, HE SAID, "IT DOES NOT LOOK LIKE SOON." RENNER

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